

# LATIN AMERICAN REPORT



DECEMBER 1958

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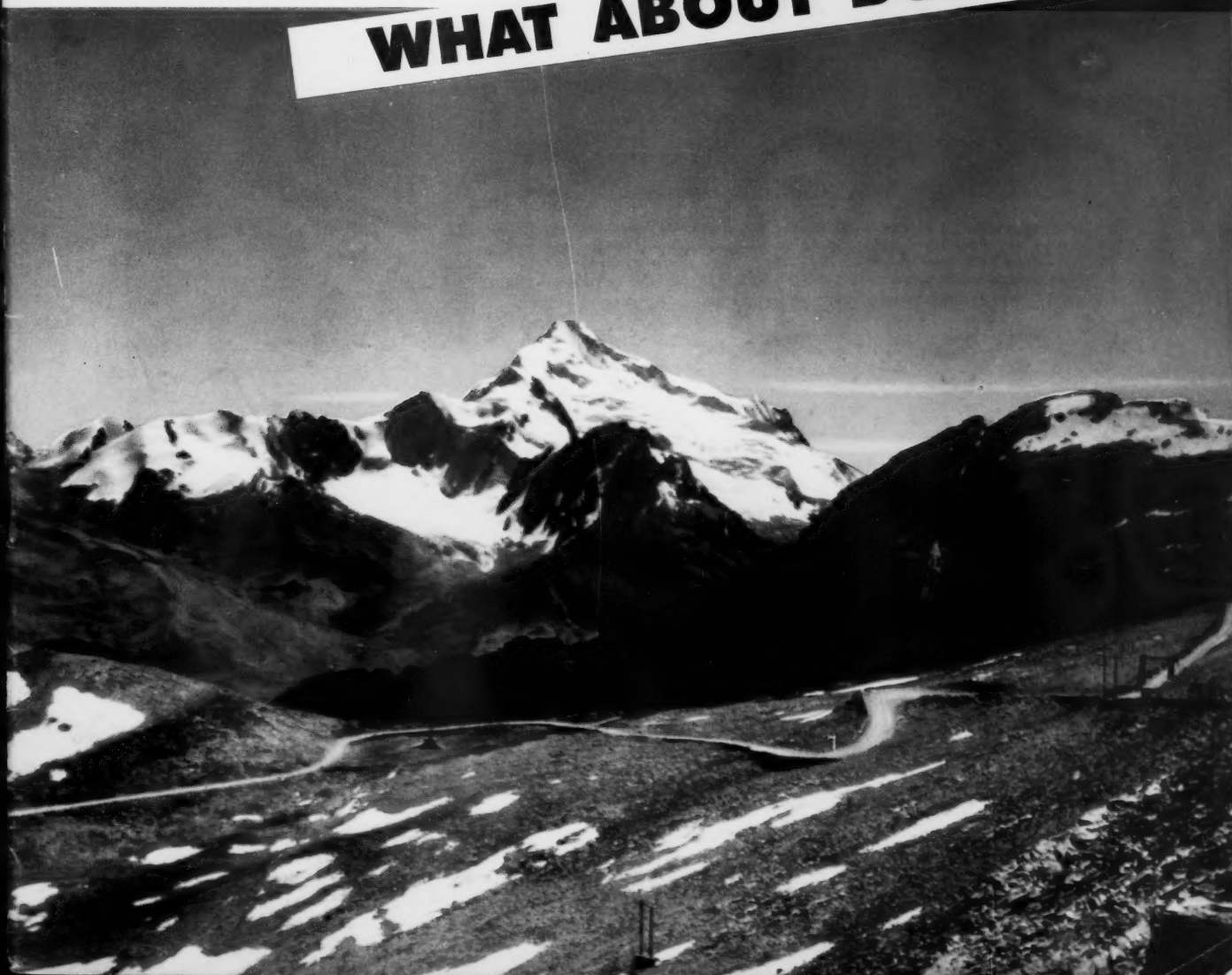
**BOLIVIA:** A rough ride for a strange, troubled little land astride the mighty Andes. Will it ride or "back off?"

**COSTA RICA:** Here fast-growing Latin countries pin their hopes for bountiful harvest on the "Atomic Age" in agriculture.

**MEXICO:** There is a tendency to think of this republic enjoying perfect "health," but it, too, has its internal "sores."

**HEMISPHERE:** Out of the dark places where the "vampire" bats dwell, comes a new source of an old, dread scourge—rabies.

## WHAT ABOUT BOLIVIA?



**SAFARI AROUND THE CORNER**

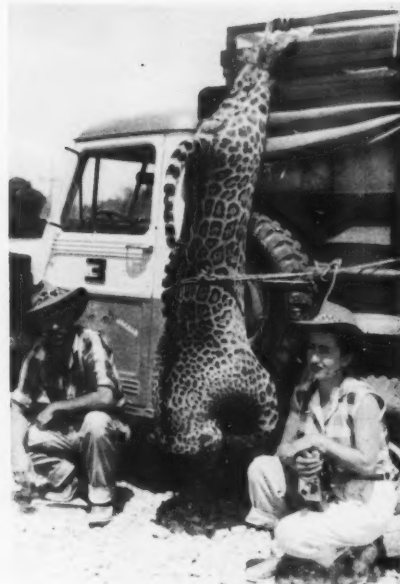
# Guatemala

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Fishing is great in Guatemala. Game fish are plentiful in rivers—tarpon, snook and many others, some of them weighing as much as 900 pounds. Specialized personnel always are available to serve visitors as guides to the more accessible spots.

Guatemala, largest of the Central American republics, is only three hours by air from the United States. Its excellent hotels, "air conditioned" climate, beautiful scenery and colorful Indian village life make it a year-round tourist paradise.



Hunting the Guatemala jaguar is exciting. In the photo above, Oscar Dubois and his wife, Connie pose beside a beautiful, 234 pound specimen they bagged. Excellent guides are always at the visitor's orders.



Save your money! You don't have to go halfway around the world for a safari. Guatemala is close by. In this photo Oscar Dubois poses by a 214 pound jaguar he shot just three hours away from the Capital City of Guatemala, in Suchitepequez.



Among the most popular sports in Guatemala are hunting and fishing. Only recently, however, have they been open to tourists on a regular basis. Guatemala today has specialized personnel to guide visitors to the proper places.

For information apply to the **NATIONAL TOURIST BUREAU** 6th Ave. 5-35 Guatemala City, Guatemala

## AN ANNIVERSARY RE - AFFIRMATION

In March of 1956 when we launched the first issue of volume one of a new magazine which we called "Latin American Report", we made the statement that we had faith and confidence in the developing future of the other Americas, and that we felt that mutual understanding was an important factor in good relations within the western hemisphere.

Now, as we enter our third year of publication we are more convinced than ever that understanding, through knowledge, within the Americas is by far the most important single weapon that we of the Western Hemisphere possess in getting along, one with another, and in the resisting of those who would defile our way of life.

So once again we repeat the credo which we printed in our first issue:

"We believe in the developing importance of the nations of Central America, South America, and the Caribbean . . . that the future destiny of the United States of North America is inextricably interwoven with the destinies of the other Americas . . . that all North Americans, whether they have a specific interest or cultural interest or not, ought to be kept informed of all important developments in the other Americas . . . that an increased exchange of information will result in closer relationship among the Americas . . . that it will be exciting to follow the events which are occurring in the developing empires to the south."

In repeating that credo we do so because little has changed our faith in the importance of the other Americas. And this, despite the fact that it has not been an easy road from a publisher's view. What has kept us going, despite all problems, are the many hundreds of letters from readers who have kept saying to us, over and over again—keep going, we are with you.

So to our readers, and to the advertisers who have shown faith and confidence in us, we say thank you, and close with the promise to make future issues ever more and more important.

*William G. Gaudet*

Member, Inter American Press Association

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# LATIN AMERICAN REPORT

*Published monthly to record and interpret the changing history of our hemisphere.*

DECEMBER 1958

VOL. III

NO. 1

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# UP TO D A

## A Monthly Summation of La

### PERON

From his sanctuary in the Dominican Republic, Juan Peron, former dictatorial president of Argentina, predicted this month that "civil war is near in Argentina". He further prophesied that the fall of President Frondizi's government would come within six months.

"Internal troubles are worsening so rapidly", said Peron, "that certainly Frondizi cannot remain in power much longer".

When and if the government does fall, Peron seemed quite willing to resume duties as head of the Argentinian State. Said he, "I am ready to leave for Argentina whenever the people call for me."

### ARGENTINA

Meanwhile, President Frondizi, faced with a series of wildcat strikes, took drastic measures to insure the safety of his regime. He has declared a state of siege in his country, and even took steps to draft the entire working force of the strike bound Argentinian railway system into the army.

Frondizi, it is reported, has blamed the strikes on pro-Peronist forces and the Communists. Reliable sources claim that the President's failure to live up to the promises he made to his Peronista backers in the last election have led to the troubles he now faces.

### PERU

A Lima based meeting of leading housing authorities from the United States and twenty Latin American countries has led to a startling reassessment of Latin housing problems.

The conference came to the inescapable conclusion that "shanty town slums" are spreading around South America's booming cities faster than they can be wiped out. These "barrios brujos", or cities of shacks clustering around the population drawing magnet of the big city, are reflecting only too forcefully the rapid growth of the Latin American population.

According to the experts, over 1,000,000 new housing units will be needed each year merely to keep from falling further behind in the housing-population race.

### CUBA

Mrs. Earl E. T. Smith, wife of the American Ambassador to Cuba, has taken the unusual step of establishing a scholarship—for architects. Stating that native Cuban architects have little opportunity for adequate study in their homeland, Mrs. Smith has offered a three year, \$5,000 annual grant to advance the art of architecture in the island country. The first recipient of the scholarship is already studying in New York City.

### COSTA RICA

This Central American country, long famed for its educational system, is about make up for its one deficiency in this field. Within the next two years Costa Rica will have its first medical school. At present it is the only Central American country without a medical training facility.

The program leading to the establishment of the institution has been greatly aided by the combined efforts of the Louisiana State University School of Medicine, and the Tulane School of Medicine, both located in New Orleans, Louisiana, U.S.A. For the past year both schools have been studying the requirements of the Costa Ricans, and now report that plans are complete for the school's inception. The first students are expected to begin pre-medical training in March of 1959, entering the college of medicine in the fall of 1961.

The LSU School of Medicine will continue to provide technical assistance and faculty training programs to the Costa Ricans after the school is opened. It is felt that this is a great step forward in the progress of Latin American medicine.

### CHILE

Late word comes from Santiago that Jose Cardinal Caro, archbishop of Santiago, has died at the age of 92. The archbishop was the oldest





# ATE...

## of Latin American News, Features and Events

member of the Sacred College of Cardinals, and had been a member of the College since 1946.

Cardinal Caro was born and raised in his native Chile, receiving his doctorate in theology at Rome. His rise to Cardinal was not spectacular, but rather the result of decades of service to his people. He was noted for his uncompromising hostility to communism, his liberalism towards the laboring classes, and a constant devotion to the welfare of the Church.

His death reduces the total number of Cardinals to only fifty one. Twenty three new members of the College will be chosen on December 15th by Pope John.

### VENEZUELA

As the Venezuelan election campaign moved in to high gear this month, everyone was ready to claim victory.

Wolfgang Larrazabal, candidate of the left of center Republican Democratic Union and the Communist party, seemed to be well ahead of his rivals, if popular demonstrations are any indicator of vote appeal. However, all was not joy.

The party leaders of the three candidates have begun that age old political game of mud slinging. Larrazabal was declaimed as a "Peronist". His opponent from the also leftist Democratic Action Party, Romulo Betancourt, was called "a servant of the United States." Lastly, Dr. Rafael Caldera, candidate of the more middle of the road Christian Socialist party, was despidedly referred to as "candidate of the rich".

The candidates themselves have taken no part in the villification and name calling, leaving this ungentlemanly part of the campaign to lesser men. But all three are sure of victory, with two of the parties describing their majorities as "overwhelming".

### NEW YORK CITY

New York University, this city's largest private seat of higher education, has taken a step forward in the fostering of better inter-hemisphere relations. The college's recently found-

ed Brazilian Institute this month held a three day long conference on the Brazil of today and tomorrow.

The program featured discussions of Brazilian economics, social patterns, cultural life, political trends, industrial development programs, and other aspects of life in Latin America's largest country. Eminent Brazilians spoke on their specialties, and followed up with discussion workshops.

At the conclusion of the three day session, five noted Brazilians received honorary degrees from N.Y.U., including symphonic composer Hector Villa-Lobos. One feature of the conference was the world premiere of a new work by the famed Brazilian.

### GUATEMALA

Word is out that this nation's first oil refinery is about to be constructed. The Breaux Bridge Oil Refining Company of the United States has been authorized by the Gutamalan government to construct the refinery.

When completed, the installation will produce gasoline and other refined petroleum products. The government has calculated that this new addition

to the Guatamalan industrial scene will save the country some 10,000,000 quetzal (equiv. to U.S. dollar) annually, as well as provide less expensive fuel for the domestic market.

The Guatamalan government also instituted a series of tariff reprisals against European countries which do not import Guatamalan coffee, raising import duties on goods from such countries 100%. Immediately affected were Britain, France, Portugal, and Belgium.

### COLOMBIA

When Dr. Alberto Lleras Camargo was elected president of Colombia, one of his first measures was to declare a general amnesty towards dictator Gustavo Rojas Pinilla. On Dec. 4th the ex-ruler rewarded Camargo's clemency by bringing to a head a plot to overthrow the nation's government.

Rojas, who disclaimed the Colombian senate's right to accuse or judge him of purported misuse of his office, has also claimed that he, and not Dr. Camargo, is the constitutional ruler of the country. Since he was allowed to return to the country, claim Colombian sources, Rojas has been involved in a continuous series of plots designed to put him back into power.

On December 3rd, the coup was attempted. But Camargo, acting quickly, decreed modified martial law throughout the nation, and effectively destroyed the plot by having Rojas arrested. Just how much support the ex-ruler's supporters will now give him remains to be seen, but it is felt that his days as a threat to Colombian democracy are ended.

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## BOOM WITH A BUT

Of all the other Americas, the Republic of Mexico stands out as one of the most prosperous—boasts one of the soundest and most stable economies. And yet even Mexico has its tender spots, if they do not always show on the surface. When the new President, Adolfo Lopez Mateos, takes office the first of this month, he will find himself in a position of having to administer to some of these tender spots, that recently have become more irritated and more inflamed than has normally been the case in late years.

Most painful of these sore spots is that of labor. For quite a long time now the government's efforts have been directed toward attracting capital investment to Mexico. Among the concessions made to new industry has been of holding down labor costs. Meanwhile, living costs have risen along with industrial expansion. Labor has been caught in a tightening vise and discontent has grown. Mexican labor is renowned for the "reasonableness" of its demands. It was a part of the pattern of the close

alignment of union leaders with the Government and the ruling PRI party, that in August the oil workers' leadership announced it would defer wage rise demands for another 14 months.

Stirred by this decision of the leadership, late in August dissident labor factions attempted to take control of several locals and this led to violence and rioting. But after the riots were brought to an end and elections were held in the disputed locals, the results surprised even the dissidents themselves. The rebellious elements gained control of two petroleum locals, and the outcome was considered a successful attack on the leadership of the powerful Mexican Federation of Labor itself. It followed on the heels of earlier dissident successes in which leftist factions won control of the National Railway Workers Union. It was considered a pretty sure indication that the "party" was over between labor and the Administration.

But if labor now insists on and gets a fairer share of the national product, this is going to mean less profit for industry. It may under certain circum-

stances bring on a flight of capital and may even make it hard for the Administration to hold the peso at its present level.

Some political observers are predicting an era of increased graft and corruption coming up. They point to mounting reports of influence peddling on behalf of the new Administration even before the new Cabinet was formed, and there is talk of official desire to legalize gambling in Mexico. But regardless of whether the fears of these observers are correct, or whether the new President when he comes to office acts hastily and decisively to put these fears to rest, there persists among Mexicans a feeling that the 1958 elections saw for the last time the traditional "selection" rather than election of a Mexican President.

**NATIONAL CHARACTER.** To correctly understand the sociological structure that exists in Mexico and to rightly assess the significance of the tender spots in its structure, it is necessary to delve back into Mexican history for a close-up look at certain key events that have played a part in



*Mexican industry . . . along with the advantages and concessions—handicaps*

## Mexico, despite its forerunning position in Latin American development, has more than its share of troubles

forming the Mexican character. Besides the labor problem, there are sore spots (not quite as raw) in the petroleum industry itself, in agriculture and industry in general, in religion, in the nation's laws and in its relations with foreign peoples.

Before the Spanish Conquest there were in Mexico some 109 separate Indian nations with an equal number of languages and an overall "Roman" Empire run by a government in many ways superior to the Spanish of the time. The Mexicans were conquered because of infinitely superior weapons, but also because the Emperor of the Mexicans believed the white conquerors friendly and predestined to arrive as friends.

The records of private titles of the Mexicans were destroyed after the conquest, thus permitting the "legal" seizure of all property, because it was not recorded as private property, and its subsequent division among the Spanish conquerors. The land, the mines, utilities, fisheries, timber—in fact all real property and the rights to use and occupy the land or the sea

and the lakes and rivers, by force of arms, passed to the conquerors.

The populace was allowed to work for the Spaniards at a meager salary and starvation wages but with some security of job and food and shelter. In a matter of time the Indian became through involuntary mixture with the Spanish conquerors, a *mestizo*, or a person of mixed blood with no pride in the white blood because mostly it was not licit either by law or by the Church. Consequently there is among the masses no pride of white ancestry. From this followed an instinctive distrust and fear of the white race. The Mexican race then grew with a highly sensitive complex, a native, inherited fear of foreigners and a supersensitive distrust of anything alien—in fact, a race with a chip on its shoulder.

The war of independence from Spain was led by Spaniards in Mexico with the *mestizo* as a soldier. However the landowners continued after independence to be Spaniards, and the Mexicans continued to work for small wages paid by the descendants of the conquerors. The number of Spaniards

was small, and the number of workers was large.

**THE REVOLUTION.** Then came Texas and its independence from Mexico, the Mexican war and the annexation of the Southwest of the United States. This was a bitter blow and is still deeply resented by the Mexican people. The return of the battle flags that were taken from Mexico in 1847 did a great deal to lessen the blow to their pride and reduce the spiritual loss because of the war of 1847.

Then began the Revolution of the people against the landowners. It lasted 10 years, from 1910 to 1920. Because it was a revolution, and because the Federals resisted, the retirement of President Porfirio Díaz threw the country into a violent, bitter turmoil where eventually the laws drawn and enacted, in general favored only one class—the worker.

It is because of this one-sided legislation that other people have called the Revolutionary Government communistic. The Mexican is not communistic and is not sympathetic to the Com-





*Industries like this Monterrey glassworks boast long records of no strikes*

munist cause. If there is in the world a people who value their personal independence and their personal liberties, it is the Mexican people. It is true that much Russian propaganda has been used in Mexico, where Russians maintain an over-size diplomatic corps, and that Soviet Russia is recognized; but so also is it recognized by the United States.

But if the Revolution, and the laws that stemmed from the Revolution, had as their basis the good of the working class, the Revolutionary party, as its leaders prospered, has tended to drift toward the Right, while paying lip service to the Left. The workers retained a great many privileges; but in time they came to suffer a disparity between wages and living costs, between their share of the national product and that shared by other sectors.

It is true that Mexico in its great desire to industrialize, has offered capital many great inducements to

establish factories, and the newer the product, the more tax advantages. But even industrialization is not without its handicaps. If a factory is established it is necessary to pay an *ad valorem* export tax on the product manufactured. Sales then are confined to the limited Mexican market, except where the world market price is high enough to warrant payment of the export tax. It is true that exemptions to the export tax are granted but the need to apply for such exemption, which possibly will not be granted, is discouraging to new capital.

**THE EVOLUTION.** Then if an industry employs labor and some turn out useless or inefficient, the company may discharge such labor only after paying three months full salary plus other benefits. The good laborer is retained because he is good, but it costs a premium to discharge the inefficient worker. This is a product of class legislation which in time will

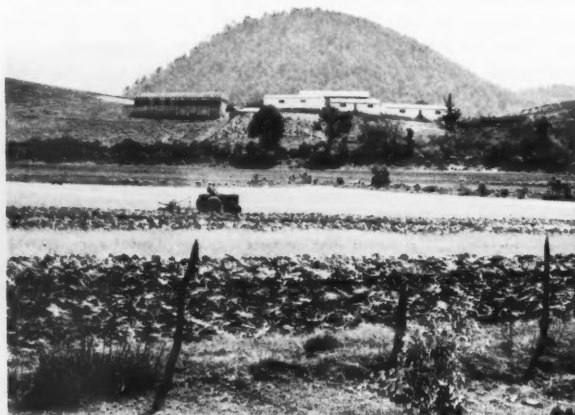
be corrected, but it is discouraging now.

Some years ago, all, or practically all decisions in the labor courts were rendered in favor of the worker. Now there is a chance of fair treatment and more cases are lost by the worker than before. This is another proof of the stabilization of Mexico and the beginning of the termination of class favoritism, where the employer was always wrong. The labor courts are special courts and there is a section of the Supreme Court dedicated to labor matters on appeal.

Another strong evidence of favorable evolution since the end of the 10 year Revolution is the quality of the Supreme Court. While there is still much to be desired, decisions based on politics or influence are diminishing and the magistrates are conscientiously trying to hand down decisions that are fair and based on law and not on prejudice, class favoritism or political influence.

*Petroleos Mexicanos . . . the dissidents were not satisfied with "reasonable" demands*

*The land was parcelled into communes called ejidos*

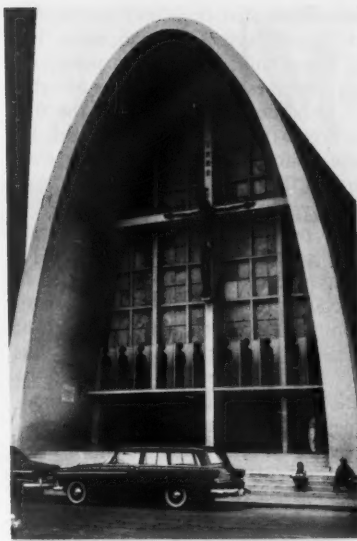




Cases are decided equitably and foreigners are not discriminated against as was true for many years after the Revolution was over. It is doubted if a decision similar to the Oil Expropriation decisions would be possible now, although oil was a serious national issue involving the pride of the Mexican Government, seriously offended by the attitude of the oil company negotiators before expropriation. This was again evidence of the sensitive nature of the Mexican, who, when convinced of the good faith of foreigners is hospitable and kindly, but when his pride is offended may act just the reverse.

Since oil expropriation, various appointed administrators of the Government's "decentralized" organization, known as Petroleos Mexicanos, have attempted to operate this organization at a profit. For the last 12 years Senator Antonio Bermudez, the present administrator, has done more to put the industry on a solvent basis than all of the previous administrators and he has done as good a job as politics and the lack of funds will allow. No public enterprise of this nature run by government, influenced by politics, could have the success of a private competitive enterprise.

**GHOST OF AN ISSUE.** It is unfor-



*Religion . . . out of the "doghouse" and into the churches*

tunate that expropriation became a national political issue and cannot be resolved on a strictly economic basis. Expropriation was upheld by the Supreme Court confessedly on political issues (against a matter of offended pride) rather than on either the law or on the sole theory of economic benefits, and the controversy became

so bitter that the issue has continued to be one of national pride rather than a matter of economic benefits to the Mexican Nation.

If the matter of pride could be satisfied, if the bitter feeling created by expropriation could be softened, then economically Mexico would very greatly benefit by an influx of oil capital. It could again take its place as a heavy producer of petroleum, accessible by land to the United States, either as crude for refining in the United States, or if refined in Mexico, the excess of refined products over Mexican demand to be shipped for consumption abroad.

The natural evolution would be for Petroleos Mexicanos to make equitable contracts with private companies for drilling, transportation, storage and construction, and for sale of excess crude. These companies could be paid in kind, that is by a portion of the oil produced, always with the right of the Mexican Government to purchase at a fair market price enough crude to supply local needs when the supply of crude from Petroleos' own wells is not enough.

Another tender spot in the Mexican sociological structure has long been that of religion. The Revolution of 1910 swept in a tide of anti-clerical-

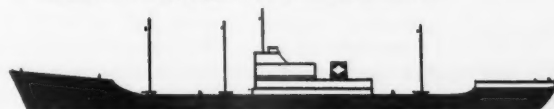
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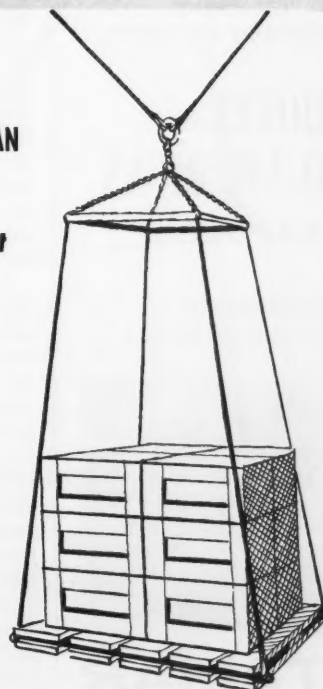
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## **CANTAMAR**

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ism. From that time until the regime of Manuel Avila Camacho, more than 30 years later, few men in public office dared espouse the cause of religion. President Camacho was the first to break this political taboo with his now famous utterance, "*Yo soy creyente*" ("I am a believer"). Since then the wives of some government leaders have publicly attended church. But until a few years ago it would have been political suicide for an elected official to have expressed public sentiment in connection with the death of a Pontiff. Yet with the passing of Pius XII, leaders of both the House and the Senate publicly expressed their condolences. Religious leaders of Protestant and Jewish faiths, as well as the predominant Catholics, have observed a heightened spiritual interest in Mexico. Free Masonry, long a strong force among Mexican leaders, continues to grow. But the significant factor is that the long, deep rift between Church and State appears gradually to be healing.

**AGRICULTURE.** Yet another tender spot in the Mexican sociological structure is to be found in agriculture and the peasant class. The Pre-Cortez mass of Indians lived in communes, but these communes were operated by rulers of their own people, and compared very favorably with the feudal system in Europe at that time. When the Indian was subjugated and the blood of the Indian was mixed with the Spanish, and the lands were lost for 400 years to the Conquerors and their descendants, the entire picture changed. The people were not the same; they were not prepared suddenly to take over all agriculture in Mexico, nor did they have the money or the spirit to work the lands, or the knowledge to compete with modern methods.

Yet the *ejido*, or commune, was revived by law as a revolutionary policy after 400 years. Land in production was seized (without compensation to the owners — Mexican, Spanish, American or any other race) and turned over to the *ejido*. Title was not given, merely a tenuous tenure of possession, and the product is equally divided among the *ejidatarios*, or members of the commune. Again there is no pride of ownership, no inducement to improve the property occupied, insufficient money to buy equipment or blooded livestock. As a natural consequence, the *ejido* has become political and the interests of politicians are served, rather than the welfare of the people. The inducement continues after 40 years to wait until a crop is ready on private property and then for the agrarians to seize it

from the private owners for incorporation into a commune. That is the reason many landowners who have not yet lost title to their farm properties do not plant on their properties; because there is no real security against seizure under the agrarian law and distribution to the communes, 40 years after the new constitution was enacted. This must be, and in time will be, corrected but it takes a man with real courage to upset this "basic tenet of the Revolution" and also to give the *ejidatarios* title to that portion of the commune which is now precariously occupied by them.

**DEMOCRATIC COURSE.** By paying a fee to lawyers, it is possible to have relatively small tracts of land declared "inaffectable," which means that the farm land so declared inaffectable cannot be taken by *ejidos* without compensation, which is a big step ahead.

The day there is security in the farm and large farms are permitted so that modern tools and equipment are economically possible, Mexico will become more prosperous and prosperity will not be confined solely to the cities, as it is now because of the industrialization of Mexico, but to the agricultural districts as well. A prosperous people pay taxes and the more prosperous the more taxes. It will not be necessary then to hit the mining industry with such taxes as to render uneconomical many mining operations except in boom times.

Mexico deserves to be recognized as one of the most advanced countries in Latin America, but like all the others she has her shortcomings and handicaps, and problems that will one day have to be resolved. That some of these problems are becoming more pressing has lately been evidenced. It is the growing belief among many Mexicans that the solutions may not be found in the present political setup. Some profess to see a dwindling of the power of the PRI (Party of Revolutionary Institutions) as dissension grows between Right and Left Wings. Some see a rise of popularity for PAN (National Action Party), but in reality the platforms of the two parties differ very little. There is some talk of forming a third party. But however the situation develops politically, it is almost sure to take a democratic course. The bitterness of the Revolution has just about been lived down. A few years ago people hesitated to venture into the streets on an election day. Election day in 1958 was practically without incident. Children played in the streets, traffic moved as usual—and the candidates of PRI won as usual.

# Calendar of Festivals



The past thirty days saw the annual re-opening of Mexico's most fabled continuous festival—the bullfights. And just as opera does in North America, the corrida enjoys the social privilege of a formal opening in lands below the border.

Mexico's season commenced at Mexico City's Plaza de Toros, not with an opening night, but opening day. Unlike opera, bullfights are held in the afternoon. Main events and star performances are held each Sunday, and novice bullfighters, the novilleros, practice their, as yet, unperfected skills on Thursdays.

A bullfight is a lot like the World Series to Americans; everybody goes to one. A corrida in Mexico City, or any other metropolis, sells out fast, so be sure to get all tickets required in plenty of time. They are sold in two varieties: shady side and sunny side.

The shady side tickets are the more expensive. They are not closer or better seats, but do provide that the sun will be behind the spectator. As the afternoon wanes, and old sol dips behind the very high sides of the bullrings, shady siders will be comfortable.

People on the other side of the stadium, the sunny side, will sit all afternoon with glare in their eyes and blistering heat on their brows. Even worse, good pictures simply cannot be taken from the sunny side of the stadium. Sun in the lens effectively makes a mess out of all that expensive Kodachrome.

All bull rings, from the smallest to the largest, have this sunny-shady setup. And virtually the same situation exists in all these places: the tourists sit on the shady side, and the hometowners spectate from the sunny side. Do not worry over this apparent inequality. The local aficionados sit in the sun only because they have to; a working man's salary does not stretch far enough to afford the shady side every Sunday of the season. And any tourist found doing likewise is usually thought of as slightly out of his mind.

For those who have never seen a bullfight, the Sunday events are almost guaranteed to provide an exciting show. We say almost, because even the most ferocious of fighting breeds of bulls has been known to produce a "Ferdinand" every once in a while. Due to the nature of the sport there is no way to know this in advance.

However, for seekers of the unique and unexpected, the novice shows provide a glorious opportunity. Almost anything can happen, from thrilling performances to some of the most hilarious unrehearsed comedy to be seen anywhere. And tickets to the Thursday events are both easier to get and less expensive.

Virtually every Mexican town of any size at all has a bull ring. Naturally, the large rings of the big cities draw the most skilled of bullfighters, but even the smaller towns get good shows during the various festivals which always seem to be going on in one place or another.

Tickets may be obtained through travel agents, your hotel, or at the ring. Price range from 50 cents for the sunny side, to several dollars for a box seat in the shade.



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# BOLIVIA:

tr





# trouble two miles high

Here lies the *Altiplano*, high up close to space—bleak, barren, desolate, swept by raw, cold winds. Above the high plateau tower the Andes, the three highest peaks on the continent—ice, snow and stone. This is the earth, weathered and eroded, stripped and naked, exposed to the furies of the elements. Underneath the high plain lies the wealth of the land and only now and then does it show through on the surface. This is Bolivia—that part of earth nearest the Hemisphere's outer reaches.

These people are the inhabitants of the austere land. Descendants, most of them, of a people who lived here before the white man came. They learned eons ago to live on what the harsh land provided—and that was not very much. It is still not much today. But today there is expectation of more, and therein is a difference.

It came about—this new hope—in the year 1952. That was the year of the Revolution. Revolt was nothing new to Bolivia. From 1825 until 1952 it is estimated that the country's government changed hands by violence and illegal acts some 178 times. But the Revolution of 1952 had a difference. This revolt had as its base the working masses of the republic. The revolutionaries swept out of the tin mines to topple the government and break the hold of the so-called "tin barons" on the country's political life. The party of the Revolution, the National Revolutionary Movement (MNR), strongly influenced by the labor unions as a result of the workers' part in the Revolution, came to power. The great, prosperous tin mines were nationalized. The outlook then, as seen by the revolutionaries, was one of plenty for all.

But it just hasn't worked out that way. The state-owned entity that runs the tin industry has been operating at an annual deficit of \$10 million. During the first five years after the Revolution the labor force in the tin mines was increased 20 percent, at the same time that production fell off 50 percent. Of the 16 mines operated by the state corporation, employing 27,000 miners, ten are considered

uneconomic operations. Under the law, however, miners cannot be discharged. As a result, these mines continue to operate at a loss that must be backed up by United States aid. One mine employs 3600 miners, with work for only 1200, and a consequent \$300,000 annual loss.

**THE STATE OF TIN.** But aside from the costly feather-bedding practices permitted in the state operation of the mines, it was unfortunate for the new operators that a general long-range decline of world tin prices began at about the time the mines were nationalized. Prices have been on the downgrade virtually ever since, and reached the ultimate low in September of this year, when the bottom fell out of the market and prices dropped from 92 cents a pound to 8 cents. This represented a loss of exchange earnings for Bolivia of about \$5 million, based on her average exports of 20,000 tons a year.

Bolivian metals exports have declined 40 percent since 1956 due to a slackening of world demand for tin. The situation was further aggravated last year by Russia's sudden dumping of 10,000 tons of secretly hoarded tin on the already depressed world market (30 times this nation's 1956 ex-

ports). For troubled Bolivia, which depends almost exclusively on tin for her export earnings, the Russian action coming when it did was tantamount to an act of economic aggression. In spite of dwindling tin production and exports, the nation continues to keep in production her uneconomic and inefficient mines. Stabilization plans advanced for Bolivia provide for the dismissal and relocation of inefficient miners. It is estimated the labor force in the mines could be cut to 10,000 men. Railroads, also hard-hit by declining metals exports, could it be believed, operate more efficiently with half their present number of employees.

As a result of labor's wage gains under the MNR regime, unaccompanied by increase in production, inflation became rampant in Bolivia, soon won for that nation the dubious distinction of heading the United Nations' list of inflated economies. With the cost of living increasing at break-neck pace (the increase was 200 percent in 1956 alone) it soon became unprofitable for farmers to work their land; and for those who did, it was more profitable to smuggle their produce across the borders into neighboring countries for sale in re-

*Troops of the Presidential Guard*



*La Paz, the capital city, and the presidential palace*





*The average Bolivian never heard of a Mixmaster, and grinds grain or coffee by hand*

## HARSH LIFE ON THE

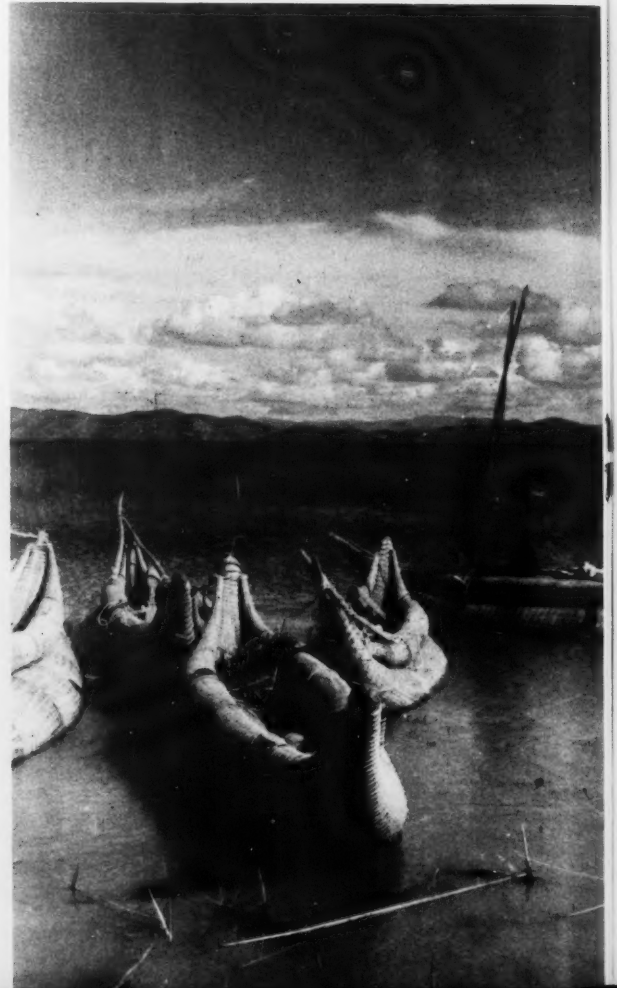
*A farm, the houses of adobe, the land hostile, the mountains ever surrounding*



*Kids love bands the world around*



*Lake Titicaca, 12,000 feet above sea level*





*The coarse woolen shawl of the Bolivian is a necessity in the howling cold of the mountains, and their eyes seem forever to squint against the brilliant sun*

## N THE ALTIPLANO

*Sorata nestles for protection in one of the low valleys, 9,000 feet high*



*To stop the train one stands on the tracks and hopes the brakes are working*

*Grazing land, sparse and scrubby, at the foot of a pre-Inca stairway leading to nowhere*







*This is the Altiplano, three miles high in places, wind swept and barren*

turn for more stable currencies. In a few years time Bolivia was spending \$300 million a year for food imports alone.

But in 45-year-old President Herman Siles Zuazo, who took office in 1956, the nation had a firm believer that only stabilization could save the Revolution of 1952. Acting on the advice of United States and International Monetary Fund advisers, the President took measures to bring inflation under control as fast as he dared. So determined was Siles to hold the line against inflation that he once went on a hunger strike to thwart opposition efforts to sabotage the plan. As a result, the Boliviano has remained fairly stable during the 20 months the plan has been in effect. Agriculture has come back, helped along by government aid, land program, and the rehabilitation of miners into agriculture, to the point where the nation is now almost self-sufficient in food.

**STABILIZATION?** But it has only been with the help of the United States and the Monetary Fund that Bolivian economy with about \$200 degree of stability it has. Since 1953 the United States has shored up the Bolivian economy with about \$200, million in loans and grants-in-aid. This year the United States budgeted \$20 million for direct ICA aid to Bolivia, plus another \$3 million for technical aid. But unforeseen pressures were brought to bear on the nation's economy—the slackening tin market, last year's Russian dumping, dropping prices. The nation's reserves dwindled almost to a mere \$1 million. So desperate did the situation become these past few months that in September the Bolivian government felt itself forced to seek an additional \$20 million in U. S. aid to save the stabilization program.

At the same time, President Siles' program met with increasing resistance at home and from within the MNR party, itself, a coalition of labor, peasants and the revolutionary middle class. Spearheading opposition to the stabilization program is the 47-year-old Juan Lechin, leader of the left wing of the MNR, and secretary general of the Bolivian Miners Union. Lechin, a self-educated miner, has been strongly opposed to Siles' program since the President kicked him out of the Government last year. Lechin believes that strict adherence to the stabilization plan is killing the Revolution by making it appear reactionary in the eyes of the workers. Middle class elements also are in strong opposition to the program.

But to get the emergency aid she is asking for, Bolivia may have to adopt even stiffer economic measures to put teeth into the stabilization program. Recent negotiations with an In-

ternational Monetary Fund Mission and Government financial officials at La Paz, reportedly called for adoption of measures to devalue the Boliviano to its real level on the free market, a balanced budget to end deficit spending, fostering of further private investment and breaking of the unions' stranglehold on employment.

U. S. officials also appear to see the need for supporting Bolivian currency with necessary increases in the 1959 aid projections, but they also are convinced that the President must come to grips with internal problems endangering stabilization. Chief among these problems is government deficit spending to keep uneconomic activities going, such as the marginal tin mines and overemployment along with uncalled-for wage increases not based on increased production. Stabilization plans call for reduction in mine workers from 27,000 to 10,000 and rehabilitation of discharged miners in other fields. A final acceptable settlement for properties taken over in the nationalization of the tin mines, also would help Bolivia in the eyes of the United States Government and private investors.

**A BRIGHTER SIDE.** A somewhat brighter picture than the state-owned tin mines is that of Bolivian oil. With tin exports, upon which the nation has always depended, now steadily on the decline, oil has become the symbol of national recovery. Hitherto landlocked Bolivia recently completed her first outlet to the sea, a \$12 million, 216-mile pipeline from Sicasica to Arica, in Chile, which eventually

*The tin mines . . . source of Bolivia's wealth and troubles*







may carry 50,000 barrels of oil a day to export markets. It is expected to begin carrying 7,000 barrels a day, which is more than current production permits for export. But concessions of 5 million acres granted to 10 private companies in 1956, form the basis for optimism that oil production may soon be substantially increased. Brazil also is at long last taking steps to develop her concessions in the Santa Cruz area of Bolivia.

The country of Bolivia consists of four geographic regions, each vastly different from the others. Chief among these is the *Altiplano*. Here, in one of the world's highest inhabited regions live most of the people, and here are situated the principal cities. From the *Altiplano* rise snow-covered mountains of tremendous height and

rugged beauty. The eroded plateau is broken in many places by deep, wooded gorges. Nestled in one of these, and watched over by the snowy heights of Mt. Illimani, lies the capital city of La Paz. It is also the commercial, industrial and cultural center of the nation. The *Altiplano* holds most of the nation's vast mineral wealth, is also home of the llama, vicuña and alpaca.

The intermediary region is known as the *Yungas*. This area is broken by innumerable deep gorges that spread out into narrow, cool valleys. The fertile, semi-tropical *Yungas* are known as the garden and granary of Bolivia. The *Selvas* are the densely forested eastern slopes of the Andes and contain valuable species of woods. The thinly-populated eastern lowlands, bordering on Argentina, Paraguay and

Brazil, are the nation's grasslands. And here too, along the base of the mountains, lie the nation's oil reserves—the potential of an important new economic future.

Bolivia is basically not a poor country. It has been likened to "a beggar sitting on top of a fortune in gold." But it is a nation largely of illiterate Indians and *mestizos*. The land has long been exploited by the ruling classes—first by the Spanish Conquistadores, and then by the so-called "tin barons." Now it stands at the threshold of a new era. Whether this new era will see the "beggar" find his fortune in "gold" and use it wisely for his own good, or whether the country will fall victim again to "the spoilers," whoever they may be, depends to a great extent on what happens in these next few critical years.

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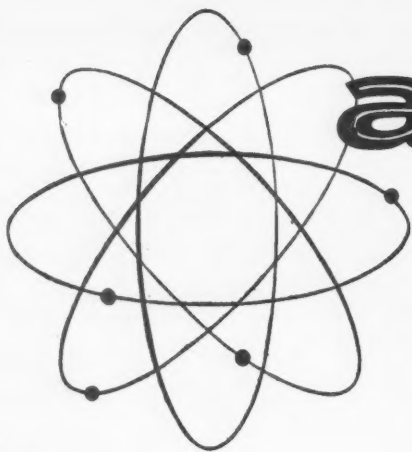
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# atomic ag



*Dr. Saiz examines root development of a control plant in isotope laboratory*

Some of the world's leading scientists are beginning to look with alarm at the rapid-fire rate by which man is reproducing himself over much of the earth's surface. By 1975 the world population is expected to increase 60 percent. The population of Latin America, in particular, is increasing at twice the average world rate.

The cause for alarm lies not in the weight of numbers, but in the problems of feeding teeming humanity in the world of the future. Population increases in many parts of the world already is outdistancing food produc-

tion. Some of the more pessimistic scientists picture a world, only a scant 50 years away, in which the various peoples will war among themselves in dog-eat-dog fashion for the mere resources of sustenance and survival.

What can be done to ward off so gloomy a prospect? For one thing, scientists believe, some effective way will have to be found to control and limit population growth. But this is a fact that much of the world appears not yet ready to accept. Meanwhile, the only alternative is to make fecund and productive of food the

surface of the earth upon which we live.

To achieve this end many exciting things are happening in the field of agriculture. Lands are being reclaimed from deserts and jungles, cleared and watered and put into cultivation. Science is exploring the sea as a greater source of food. New chemicals and fertilizers are being developed and applied to the soil to increase its yield. Means are being studied and found to better control and eradicate plant diseases and insect pests.

*Cultivation  
(Note caption)*

# a griculture

*Ever since the public discovered that atomic fallout contained something called "radiation", there has been a continuing series of scare articles on the subject. Here's one that's different; this atomic radiation may mean more and better food for all of us, and soon.*

**L**atest, and perhaps the most exciting frontier in the field of agricultural research, lies in the realm of the atom. The application of atomic energy to growing plants, still in its infancy as a research project, holds forth many interesting prospects. The potentialities of the atom in agriculture achieve particular significance in the other American, where food production has long been hard pressed to keep pace with headlong population growth.

Latins then, who have pinned their hopes for increased food production on an atomic boost to agriculture, watch with understandable interest the strange goings-on in a certain wooded dell, a natural depression in the earth, near Turrialba in Costa Rica. The leveled bottom of this roughly-circular depression is cultivated and planted with various varieties of coffees, bananas, cacao, abacá and other tropical crops. The different plantings extend outward in pie-shaped slices for a distance of roughly 100 meters from the center of the depression.

**THE INVISIBLE FORCE.** Aside from the odd pattern of plantings, this particular farm differs from others in Costa Rica, in that it is guarded by a high fence and posted prominently with warning signs. At certain times of the day workmen enter the enclosure to cultivate and examine the crops. Upon a given signal at one certain time each day the enclosure is cleared of human activity. Then from behind the protective walls of a nearby control room a scientist throws an electrical switch. Colored lights flash on—green at first, and then yellow, and finally red. Attention is centered on a hollow steel tube that stands eight feet above the ground at the center of the fenced-in depression.

After a period of time, normally about 15 minutes, the scientist thumbs another switch. The warning lights flash on in reverse order—red, yellow, green. To the uninitiated observer nothing had happened in the sinister enclosure at the bottom of the wooded dell—absolutely nothing that the eye could discern—during that 15 minute period.



*Cultivated dell at Turrialba . . . a continuing study of radiation on various plants (Note cobalt reactor at center)*



*Dr. Saiz del Rio (hand on cylinder) explains cobalt reactor*



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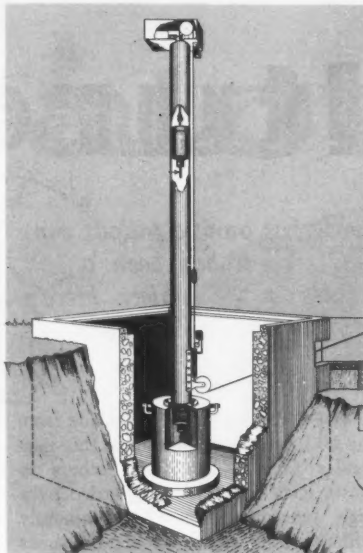
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But out there in the enclosure something *had* happened—something the eye could not see. A powerful, invisible force had been released for a brief time. An unharnessed energy had made itself felt on the many varieties of plants growing there. The effects were yet to be determined—but effects there were bound to be, and some of them might prove astounding. Some of them might be of great benefit to hungering humanity.

What had happened out there in the enclosure was this: From a small concrete pit at the center of the depression, shielded by a ton and a half of lead, a minute (230 Curies) but deadly radioactive cobalt "bomb" had been raised by remote control from its protective shielding. As the control room lights blinked from green to yellow, the bomb was halfway up in the eight-foot steel tube; when the light flashed from yellow to red, the bomb rested at the top of the tube, where it had remained for about 15 minutes before being returned to its shielded resting place in the ground.

During this quarter-hour exposure, deadly gamma rays emanated from the cobalt "pile" and penetrated the far corners of the cultivated clearing at the bottom of the depression. The wooded hills surrounding the dell protected the neighboring countryside, but the plant life within the enclosure received the full impact of the gamma rays. The impact of the rays varies in proportion to distance from the "pile" at the center of the plot. So powerful are these rays that they would be fatal to a man standing for an hour a few feet from the exposed source. But what effect did this radiation have on the plant life growing in the enclosure?

**HELPFUL RAYS.** From this one particular exposure, perhaps little enough. But this is a daily ritual in the wooded dell at Turrialba. And in the course of time, the daily exposure to gamma rays produces strange genetic mutations in the plants. Many of these mutations will result merely in curious freaks; but on the other hand, some will show useful qualities, such as increased bearing and larger-sized fruits, resistance to disease, and so on. These then will be developed as new strains for agricultural use.

The atomic reactor at Turrialba, upon which the interest of Latin agriculturists is centered, is the only such apparatus now functioning in the whole of Latin America. Exciting as it is, it is only a part of a much broader agricultural research program underway at Turrialba. The research station, full title of which is the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Science, is operated under the Organization of American States. It was created in 1944 by the Pan American Union and transferred to the OAS upon formation of that body in 1948. The station is under the direction of Dr. Ralph H. Allee of the United States. Here are carried out extensive experiments, both theoretical and practical, to improve crop yields, develop plants strains resistant to blights and other tropical diseases, to test new and better soil nutrients, and to control insect pests. Scientists, technicians and students from all over Latin America come to Turrialba to study and to teach, returning to their own countries to apply new ideas and methods learned at the research center.

The gamma ray program at Turrialba has not been under way long enough to show many concrete results, but it may be expected to bring about some interesting developments in tropical agriculture. Already, marked changes due to gamma ray exposure have been noted at Brookhaven National Laboratory at Upton, L.I., in the United States, where an atomic mutation program has entered its ninth year. There it has been noted that the tobacco leaf suffers from gamma rays, producing a stringy, cord-like crop. But at the same time, scientists have found a number of useful plant mutations, including a type of navy bean that is resistant to disease and easier to harvest; a strain of wheat resistant to rust, which annually causes losses in the millions of dollars; and a thriving short-stemmed rice plant. Beneficial mutations also have been reported from Brookhaven in a variety of peach—one that





Helicopter brings Dr. Milton Eisenhower on visit to Turrialba Institute

ripens two weeks earlier than normal, and one that ripens two weeks later.

At Turrialba, the gamma ray program is under the direction of radiation geneticist, Dr. Carl C. Meh, of the Division of Radiation and Organisms, Smithsonian Institute Astrophysical Laboratory, at Washington. Dr. Meh is a Chinese-born citizen of the United States. His assistant in the field is Guillermo Orbegoso of Peru, who took his Master's degree in agricultural science at the Turrialba Institute. Scheduled to join the program in early October, was plant physiologist, Dr. Howard Burroughs, from the University of Hawaii Marine Laboratory at Honolulu.

**FUTURE HOPES.** In conjunction with the Field Laboratory at Turrialba, is a small but well-equipped Isotope Laboratory, where mutation results and the effects of soil nutrients are studied through means of radioactive tracers. The Isotope Lab is run by Dr. Saiz del Rio, of Spain, and his assistant, Roberto Diaz-Roeu of Guatemala. Like Orbegoso, the latter is a graduate of Turrialba.

About two months ago, a group of scientists from the International Atomic Energy Agency inspected the Turrialba installation. They were members of an Agency mission touring Latin America to gauge the potential of the Hemisphere republics for development of the "Atoms for Peace" program. The Agency was set up in 1954 by the United Nations as a worldwide body to supervise and promote the peaceful use of atomic energy. Its headquarters are in Vienna. Chief of the mission was Dr. Norman Hilberry, director of the U. S. National Nuclear Energy Laboratory (Argonne Laboratory) at Chicago.

Dr. Hilberry said of Turrialba, after his visit to the installation: "Here is one of the few centers in the world dedicated to the study of tropical plant diseases and the increase of crop production. There can be nothing more important for the nations of Latin America than the developments going on here." Regarding the gamma ray project, Dr. Hilberry said: "They know what they are doing at Turrialba, and what they are doing makes good sense."

The Turrialba Institute is supported by 15 nations, signatory to the 1944 convention that established it. They are: Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Colombia, Cuba, Chile, Ecuador, Haiti, Mexico, Panama, Venezuela, the Dominican Republic, and the United States. Each country contributes proportionately to its support, according to the population of the contributing country, at the rate of \$1.25 for every 1,000 inhabitants.

Dr. Allee informs that a major expansion program is about to begin at Turrialba. A few years ago the Congress of the United States authorized an appropriation of \$500,000 for the Turrialba Institute, but for unstated reasons the money was not forthcoming until now. The grant now has been made available, along with an additional \$250,000 from other member nations. Among the improvements to be carried out, according to Dr. Allee, will be to double the size of the Isotope Laboratory. Work already is getting underway.

These are times of great change, in agriculture and food production as well as in other fields. We are living in the so-called "atomic age." The forces of the atom may be expected in many ways, directly and indirectly, to touch on the lives of those who inhabit the earth today—and tomorrow. That the atom's effect on those lives may not be all bad, is the hope of those who man the peaceful atomic projects like Turrialba. That humanity may go on reproducing and multiplying for a while yet, without overtaxing the earth's capacity to feed it—that too is the hope of Turrialba.

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RABBIT

SESSIONS

Rabies in bats, long a terror for people living in tropical regions of South and Central America, has spread to the United States and even into Canada. Scientists in several countries are working at top speed to combat the menace.

Every year for many decades prior to 1930, ranchers in countries as widely separated as Mexico and Brazil had stood helplessly by while their cattle collapsed and slowly died from some mysterious malady. It was called "derriengue" in Mexico, because its first symptom was paralysis of the hind quarters. In Brazil it went under the name of "mal de Caderas." No one knew what caused this enormous loss that sometimes destroyed entire herds.

Then Dr. J. L. Pawan, a veterinarian of Trinidad, established the disease as rabies, and at about the same time Dr. Harold Johnson of the Rockefeller Foundation, and Dr. Tellez Giron of the Mexican Department of Health, isolated the virus of rabies in the saliva of vampire bats. The chain of infection became clear. Ranchers began in increasing numbers to vaccinate herds against rabies.

in the boy's arm.

After a stunned second the boy ran screaming to his parents, and his father killed the bat with one quick blow. Then he swept the terrified child into his arms and rushed into the house. There, while the boy's mother washed the nasty little puncture-wound and bandaged it, they told the owner of the ranch about the peculiar incident.

When the immediate emergency was over the rancher began to think about the bat. What had made it attack the boy like that? It acted as if it had gone crazy.

**OMINOUS NEWS.** He hurried outside. The bat, which was hardly larger than a mouse, lay where it had fallen. The rancher cautiously worked the body into a paper bag, climbed into his car and drove the 30 miles to Tampa. He was worried, for he remembered reading, a year or so before, about a mad vampire bat that had bitten a man and four children in Mexico, and all five had died of hydrophobia. Perhaps this bat was one of those Mexican vampires. The health department people would know.

ter. But soon after he arrived at the ranch the telephone rang. It brought a marrow-chilling message from the health authorities: incredible as it might seem, microscopic examination of the bat's brain revealed that the bat had rabies. The boy must be brought in at once to start the Pasteur treatment—a daily injection of killed rabies virus vaccine over a period of two weeks. The treatment was successful, and the youngster escaped the disease.

The attack on the Florida boy occurred on June 23, 1953. Health officials were quick to see its startling significance: the battlefield in the world-wide fight to stamp out rabies had taken on a new and ominous aspect.

For centuries rabies has been one of the most dreaded of all the diseases that can attack mankind. Dogs driven insane by the deadly virus have been the major hazard to people but, thanks to vaccination, dog rabies has been brought increasingly under control. England has been free of rabies for 37 years. In the United States, rabies incidence in dogs has declined steadily, and there were only six cases of human rabies deaths in 1957. Five were caused by dog bites, the sixth probably by either a rat or a bat.

There is, however, a great reservoir of rabies infection among wild animals of many countries. Skunk rabies is common, reported most frequently in Iowa, Minnesota and California. In early days, rabid skunks boldly moved into buffalo hunters' camps, biting men and horses with fatal results. Sixteen buffalo hunters died of "hydrophobia" in a single season. Foxes, raccoons and coyotes also spread the disease in the United States. Wolves, jackals, mongooses, and other warm-blooded animals are carriers in Latin America, Europe and Asia.

**DREADED CARRIERS.** Fortunately the disease in these animals tends to be self-limiting because it is invariably fatal once its grip is firmly fastened. But the scientists learned to their dismay that it is different with bats; some species of these leather-winged animals can carry the rabies virus for months, spreading the disease to other animals with no visible ill effects to themselves. This is true of tropical bats and may be true of some individuals among the insectivorous bats of temperate climates.

Reports of other bat attacks soon followed the Florida incident. In September, 1953, the wife of a naturalist was bitten on the arm by a

## The Case Of The

# BID BATS

Dracula's prototype, carrying  
a lethal disease in its  
fangs, spells danger  
on the wing for Latin America

First discovery that the insect-eating bats of the United States could also harbor rabies came about in dramatic fashion:

A seven-year-old boy was playing in the barnyard of a ranch southeast of Tampa, Fla., when suddenly a bat flew from a hedge straight at the boy so quickly that the child had no time to dodge. It struck with an audible thump and locked its needle-like teeth

They were reassuring. They told him it was true that vampire bats in the tropics had killed some people and enormous numbers of cattle by infecting them with rabies. But they had never had a case involving insect-eating bats of the United States, such as this one. However, they would make an examination just to be on the safe side.

The man drove home feeling bet-



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furious bat while she and her husband were walking along the shore of a lake near Boiling Spring, Pr. A salesman having a friendly drink in a tavern in Harrisburg, Pa., an Air Force officer fishing near Montgomery, Ala., a motorist driving in Jacksonville, Fla., all were bitten on the arms or hands by rabid bats.

In these cases the attacking animals were killed, and proved upon examination to be rabid. In other cases reported from widely scattered parts of the country the savage behavior of the bats was so plainly abnormal that anti-rabies treatment was ordered. In all the victims, rabies was averted. Some earlier deaths attributed to encephalitis were reviewed, and when a history of bites by bats emerged it seemed probable that the deaths had been caused by rabies.

Disease detectives for Federal and State health departments worked hard to get an idea of the scope and hazards of the problem presented by the mad bats. Sportsmen joined in bat hunts to gather specimens for analysis. Bats were trapped in trees, caves, abandoned mines and old buildings.

The results were disquieting. Examination of 10,000 bats shot or captured in the first 18 states turned up rabid bats in all 18. About 200 infected bats were found, in states as far apart as Utah and Florida, New York and California. Some turned up in Canada.

Where did the disease originate? This was the first question that urgently needed an answer. The hunt turned to the Southwest. Texas and New Mexico have great caves in which live immense colonies of insect-eating bats. These creatures are ordinarily harmless, but each season hordes of them migrate to Mexico, where it is believed they roost near colonies of vampire bats. Were the insect-catching bats being bitten by their blood-lapping, rabies-infected cousins? Dr. George Menzies, a brilliant young field epidemiologist of the Texas Health Department, asked himself that question—and met doom in his quest for the answer.

**THE VAMPIRES.** The existence of blood-lapping bats in the New World has a long history. They were reported by Columbus' sailors and by the soldiers of Cortez. Later Charles Darwin confirmed the fact, thereby providing raw material for generations of writers who exaggerated the horrible behavior of the vampires into fantasies such as "Dracula".

The characteristics of the vampire bat need no exaggeration. This grim creature has large incisors, out-size

"thumbs", and a face like an ill-tempered bulldog. The body is small, but the leathery wings have an average spread of 13 inches. Vampires are graceful flyers as they emerge from their caves at dusk, but their stalking movements while they size up a sleeping victim are inordinately sinister. They walk on feet and "thumbs" in a quadrupedal gait that resembles that of a storybook goblin or a monstrous spider. An adult vampire bat can nick a human sleeper's ear or toe with its razor-sharp teeth, extract enough blood to gorge itself on, and escape without detection. They live entirely on blood, and often return to the same animal victim night after night.

Cattle are especially susceptible to rabies and a half million die from it each year in Mexico. Trinidad, Colombia, and Brazil have proportionate losses, and campaigns to exterminate the vampires are widespread. Caves where the hated species congregate have been gassed, dynamited, baited with poisons and attacked with flame-throwers. In Brazil scientists are searching hopefully for some disease that will selectively kill off vampire bats in much the same way that myxomatosis brought the plague of rabbits in Australia and New Zealand under control.

It was in 1956 when tragedy mysteriously struck George Menzies during his search for a solution to the problem. He returned from a field trip to caves in central Texas, where he had captured and banded hundreds of bats. Though he was not aware of having been bitten he was sure the disease had him in its dread grip and that he was beyond the reach of treatment. In a day or so he died of rabies.

**FEARFUL HORDES.** Other scientists investigating bat rabies in the laboratories as well as in the field were understandably shaken by Menzies' death, but the work went on. Recently a new center was established at Las Cruces, N. M., under the direction of Dr. Denney Constantine, a young naturalist who is an authority on bats. Constantine's main hunting ground is the Carlsbad Cavern, which houses uncounted millions of the creatures, some of them rabid.

The discovery in 1956 that the Carlsbad hordes were infected with rabies created great apprehension. The prospect that a bottomless reservoir of rabies might renew itself indefinitely among the wide-ranging denizens of the cave was horrible to contemplate. But while the danger has not been disproved, public health experts are beginning to breathe a little easier because months have pas-

sed without one case of rabies, in a human or in any animal other than the bats themselves, that was attributable to the bite of an infected Carlsbad bat.

However, the Public Health Service is still concerned. "Rabies spread by vampire bats in the tropics has killed hundreds of people and millions of cattle over the years, but we do not know yet just how dangerous to human beings and other animals rabies in our insectivorous bats may prove to be," says Dr. Ernest S. Tierkel, who as chief of rabies control

activities in the Public Health Service is the top authority on the problem. "When rabies was first discovered in insect-eating bats we feared it might spread rapidly, but it doesn't seem to be doing so. The number of rabid bats reported each year since 1953 seems to be about constant. Only 31 were reported in 1957, but that situation might change for the worse and we are working to find out all we can that may help us deal with it."

One new reason for concern is the fear that vampire bats are moving north. Cases of apparent attacks by

vampires on livestock have been reported recently in southern California.

How can you protect yourself against rabies? Dr. Tierkel gives this advice:

"Have all dogs vaccinated. Any dog bitten by a rabid animal will be free from rabies if it has been properly immunized.

"Get anti-rabies treatment immediately if any animal bites you without provocation.

"Stay away from sick or dormant bats."

# MEXICO

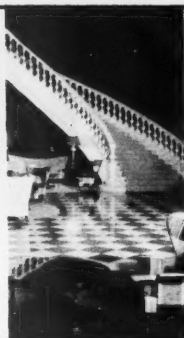


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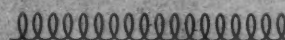
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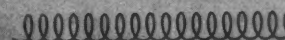
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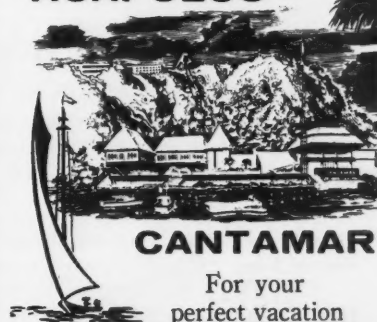
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# BOOKS ✕

## Agricultural Geography of Latin America

By the Foreign Agricultural Service of the United States  
Department of Agriculture

The Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C.

96 pages, \$0.65

American businessmen interested in Latin America will find this booklet packed with useful information on the agricultural resources of the nations south of the border. "Agricultural Geography of Latin America" rounds out in illustrative fashion the salient factors of the Latin economy for those whose interest tends especially to crops and livestock.

Noting that the 20 Latin American nations furnish about 10 percent of the world's exports and take a somewhat smaller proportion of the world's imports, the report states that during the next years an increase in industrial imports can be expected.

The United States is expected to remain the major supplier and one of the biggest buyers in the Latin American market. At present, the report notes, the United States supplies just under half of all the products Latin America imports, and takes only a slightly smaller proportion of all that the area exports.

"Almost two-thirds of Latin America's exports are agricultural items—

coffee, cacao, sugar, wheat, corn, and meat," the agricultural survey observes. "But only 12 or 13 percent of its imports are agricultural products—wheat, lard, rice, and dairy products, among others."

It is with the Latin American exports of agricultural goods and potential production that the Department of Agriculture booklet mainly deals.

Statistics, of course, do not disclose the whole picture of a nation's economy—but they provide for the businessman some indication of the direction in which that economy is going. And this booklet is a carefully detailed and statistical analysis of the 20 economies, as well as an overall survey of the region's economic strength and weaknesses, with particular emphasis on agricultural production.

For example, in dealing with sugarcane production, the report notes that total annual production in Latin America amounts to more than 200 million short tons, with close to half of this being raised by two countries—Cuba and Brazil.

In Cuba, "sugar-cane is the main crop and the principal export product," according to the report. "It occupies one-half of the cropland." The text then goes on to tell of the planting season, weather disturbances, and harvesting efforts.

Detailing also the sugarcane production in Brazil, Mexico, and Colombia—which follow Cuba in amount of production annually—the agriculture survey wraps up the section with maps and graphs showing regions where the crop is most plentiful.

This same procedure of text and illustrating maps and graphs is followed for these crops: corn, wheat, oats, rye, barley, rice, potatoes, flax, tobacco, cotton, coffee, cacao, bananas, citrus fruits, apples and pears, grapes, dry beans, peanuts, manioc, cattle, swine, sheep, goats, mules, horses, meat, and wool.

The report also notes that if the increasing population of Latin America wants a higher standard of living, it must make better use of the land, improve transportation, and increase hydroelectric power for industry.

The population of Latin America's 20 republics increased from 72 million in 1900 to 180 million in 1956, representing a gain of 150 percent in a little over half a century. The average birth rate per 1,000 persons—between 40 and 50—is more than double that in the United States.

The report reaches the following conclusion:

"Many factors favor a continued increase; yet, there are many obstacles to be overcome before a greater and more evenly distributed population can adequately be provided for in Latin America and a reasonably high standard of living maintained.

"Perhaps the greatest handicaps to progress in Latin America are inadequate transportation systems for marketing the products of the land and insufficient hydroelectric power for industrialization."

On this point, the report suggests that United States business interests can contribute bountifully—for their own profit as well as that of the nations receiving American investment and knowhow.

The rapid increase in the size of the total United States investment in Latin America—now ranging around \$8 billion—is ample evidence that many American companies agree.

This agricultural survey, along with the earlier report on industrial investment issued by the Department of Commerce, affords ample information for the businessman, government administrator, agricultural producer, and others. The two of them fill vital gaps in the picture of United States Latin American relations.

James Nelson Goodsell

Staff Writer

The Christian Science Monitor  
Boston, Massachusetts

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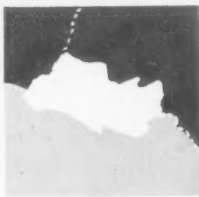
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El Salvador was the first Central American country to complete its share of the Inter-American Highway, border to border. It has 750 kms. of paved roads; 3,041 kms. all-weather roads.

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